

The *Benares Advertiser* of the 28th October regrets to say that the favours of the Government are thrown away upon the natives. The Mussulmans to this day do not hold the English Government in the same estimation as they did the former Muhammadan Government. When His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales came to India last year, the Nizam feigned sickness when he should have gone to Bombay.

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB.

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES,
ODH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Received up to 28th October, 1876.

POLITICAL.
GENERAL.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 21st October, learning from the *Indian Mirror* that the Amir of Cabul will be present at the Delhi darbar, remarks that if he comes with the pomp and grandeur of the Indian chiefs, and receives a welcome from the Government on the same grand scale as when he came before, income-tax will once more make its appearance in the country. Though the Amir, being somewhat more civilized and enlightened than the native chiefs, lives unostentatiously, yet, for all we know, he may turn out extravagant and spendthrift during his residence in the country, inasmuch as his expenses will be defrayed by the Indian exchequer.

The *Kaul Vahan Sudha* of the 23rd October, like its native contemporaries, urges on the Government the advisability of conferring the title of *Budshah* on certain native chiefs, as the Maharaja of Odeypur, the Nizam, and so on, so that the significance of the title of *Shahanshah* or *Emperor*, assumed by Her Majesty, may be deeply impressed on the minds of the people.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 26th October regrets to say that the favours of the Government are thrown away upon the natives. The Musalmans to this day do not hold the English Government in the same estimation as they did the former Muhammadan rulers of the country. When His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales came to India last year, the Nizám feigned sickness when he should have gone to Bombay; and he has resorted to the same excuse in order to avoid appearing at the Delhi durbar. What does the Nizám think of himself? His ancestor was only the governor of a province and a commander of forces under the emperors of Delhi, and belonged to the second class of honour. Surely he does not wish to be placed on the head of the Viceroy. The Viceroy, being the representative of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen in this country, is entitled to the same honour and respect at our hands as the Queen herself. The Nizám should be present at the approaching Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, and show the same respect towards the Viceroy as his ancestors did towards the emperors of Delhi. He should present the Viceroy with the usual *nazaráná* like other chiefs, and occupy the seat in the durbar allotted to him according to his rank. Did not his ancestors pay *nazaráná* to the emperors of Delhi? It is not easy to see why he should feel ashamed to make the usual presents to the Viceroy. The Nizám was never an independent chief like the Maharáná of Odeypur and other Rajas. The second seat was assigned to the Maharáná of Odeypur at the durbar held in Bombay by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, although looking at his high birth he stands highest among the feudatory chiefs. He might have been fully persuaded before his departure for Bombay that he would not get the first seat at the durbar, yet this consideration did not weigh sufficiently with him to keep him back from attendance at the durbar. The Nizám is entitled to the honours which were due to the ex-Nawab of Oudh, while the latter was on the throne. Nasir-ud-din Haider and Wajid Ali Sháh received the Company's Governor-General at Cawnpore with due

honours; then all this hesitation on the part of the Nizam to meet Her Majesty's Viceroy and make His Excellency the usual presents is very unbecoming. The Nizam's absence from the Delhi Durbar should be taken to be an unmistakable sign of his hostile disposition towards the Government, which in the end will turn out injurious to himself. The object of Sir Richard Meade's visit to the Viceroy at Simla has not yet transpired; but the secrecy with which such unimportant matters are conducted causes unnecessary apprehensions in the minds of the ignorant people.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 19th October publishes an article headed "The ex-Gaekwar," which is an extract from one of its contemporaries. The Government appears to be determined on the ruin of the ex-Gaekwar; but all that he has had to bear should not be ascribed to the Government but rather to his own ill fate. It is an atonement for his past misdeeds while in power. He has lost his throne, has been banished from his country, and now the *Pioneer* reports that his allowances have been cut down to three hundred rupees a month. But this statement of the *Pioneer* does not appear to be right. That paper further notices that he has written a letter to the *Times* on the subject with a view to give publicity to his grievance through the English press. If the Government has treated the ex-Gaekwar as is said by the *Pioneer*, it has assuredly dealt with him more severely than with any other king before.

CABUL AND FRONTIER.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 21st October says that it appears from the frontier news which is constantly pouring in, that the frontier affairs are getting more complicated and delicate every day. This news has an unfortunate tendency to confirm the idea that has got into the head of the people about the slow but steady advance of Russia towards India. No doubt men, who can think for themselves, attach as much importance to this rumour as to the tale about the abode of

a man in the moon. But, at all events, it is worthy of enquiry, how the report about a Russian invasion has got no general currency among the people. The continued frequency of frontier news has possessed an interest in men who were once quite indifferent to these things. They will ultimately produce a bad effect upon the minds of men. The internal affairs of Cabul, Candahar, and Swat are at present in a state truly pitiable. Matters like the following are of daily occurrence. A nobleman is seized, his estate confiscated, and his children placed under surveillance or hanged. The affairs of Cabul at present resemble very closely those of Turkey under Sultan Abdul Aziz Khan. The extravagance of Abdul Aziz turned the ministers and courtiers about him into his mortal enemies. The Amir of Cabul daily dismisses, suspends, and reinstates his subadars. His unjust acts have thus alienated from him the hearts of almost all his courtiers. The neighbouring states naturally see their opportunity. The arrival of a Russian ambassador in Cabul, and the mission of a Yarkand envoy to Simla, are a clear proof of the fact that frontier affairs are with great difficulty settled by the joint consent of the English Government, Russia, and the Amir of Cabul. The magnificent and liberal reception which the Russian ambassador has met with in Cabul is looked upon with surprise by the people, and strengthens the ideas they have come to form about the critical state of frontier affairs. But if it be remembered that the Pathans are as much noted for their hospitality as for their ignorance, the doubts and fears raised by the above circumstance altogether disappear. The question of introducing a new administration in Candahar is now engaging the attention of the Amir and his Council: hence it may be inferred that that province is at present in a very insecure and precarious state. The Public Opinion of the 17th October notices that the Amir lately held a council in secret for the appointment of a Hakim for Candahar, and came to the decision that Sardar Sher Ali Khan, Candahari, should supplant Sardar Fath Khan at

the illness of the Amir. But this proposed arrangement of the Amir will hardly be followed by any good results. He has not yet been able to restore order to his other disturbed affairs, but he should stop to cause fresh troubles. Does not the English Government administer by the English Government.

The Akhund's illness has beset the affairs of Swat with difficulties. The raising of the standard of revolt by his eldest son, Mian Gula, and his threatening to join the Russians, are fearful events. The Akhund has become quite disgusted with his insubordination, but has no power to restrain his lawlessness. The Akhund has sent for the Amir to settle the question about his successor after his death. He has also expressed his intention, if the question is not satisfactorily settled, of making over the territory to the Amir—a fact which it is important to bear in mind. The frequent and violent raids of the Afridis upon British territories of late have necessitated the undertaking of an expedition by the British Government. No one would be surprised to see a war break out on the frontier in the beginning of next year. Frontier affairs may thus be seen to be very complicated and difficult, and imminent ruin threatens to overwhelm the Pathans.

The *Quah Akbar* of the 22nd October, referring to the arrival of the Russian ambassador at Kabul, has reported by trustworthy Anglo-Indian papers, comments on the expediency of securing our frontier policy, and of entering into a fresh treaty with the Amir. The Government gives the Amir an annual grant of money, and also renders occasional aid in other ways: then why did he allow admission to the Russian ambassador into his territories without previously ascertaining the wishes of the Government, and treat him with such liberal hospitality? The Amir may have already entered into, or paved the way for, a treaty with the Russian ambassador during this interview. It is, therefore, necessary that the English council and officers resident at Kabul should keep the

Government constantly informed of the progress of affairs between the Amir and the Czar. Russia is running headlong into a great mistake in turning her attention towards Afghanistan in spite of a severe admonition to the contrary administered by the English Government. Does not Russia know to what power Afghanistan owes allegiance? Russia may have made herself a name for love of enterprise, but the experience of the past bears testimony to her rashness and thoughtlessness. The extent of her thoughtlessness in the Servian business is at present sufficiently evident; were it not for the frequent reprimands of the English ministers, her rashness would have oftener subjected her to disgrace. She is always alive to her own selfish interests, and loses no opportunity of aggrandisement, while maintaining the outward semblance of friendship. May Heaven protect us from her cursed tricks.

ADMINISTRATIVE (GENERAL).

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 20th October praises the English law as founded on strict justice and in accordance with reason. Complaints have often to be made against the administration of justice, not because there is anything radically wrong or unjust in the law, but because of the carelessness of individual officers in individual cases. Were these officers always on the alert at the time of administering justice, no one would have an occasion to find fault with the English dispensation of justice. Likewise it should be borne in mind, that the only safeguard against the carelessness of public officials is the fear of rebuke or reprimand by their superiors for their illegal acts. But if the superior officers themselves contribute to their carelessness, the just intentions of the law will be lost, and the native press will continue to challenge the administration of English justice. Popular complaints are invariably directed either at some particular disregard of popular rights, or some unusual severity and oppression. If an officer abuses his powers, which his office does not confer

upon him, or which overpass the limit of the law to oppress the people, the excellencies of the English law will not suffice to shut their mouths from complaining. But, of course, under such circumstances no one would be justified in finding fault with the law; and none but the ignorant vulgar, who are quite unacquainted with the law, would be guilty of such a thing. It is therefore necessary that the higher officers should always strictly watch the proceedings of their subordinates, and see if any of the latter are inclined to transgress the limits of their authority.

The editor, referring to the last Jail Administration Report of the North-Western Provinces, says that it has been honestly and truthfully admitted therein that one of the causes which swelled the jail population in 1874 was that men, convicted of no particular crimes, were thrown into prison by magistrates in default of security for good behaviour. It has also been said in the report that, in Sir George Couper's opinion, the extent to which magistrates make use of these powers depends on their personal views. The higher officers should keep a strict watch on the enforcement of these powers by the magistrates, because they are a dangerous engine of oppression in the hands of an injudicious or inexperienced officer. The editor coincides in these views of Sir George Couper, and finds in them a confirmation of his opinion that the complaints, so prevalent among the natives, against English justice, are in a great measure due to the exercise of illegal authority by young inexperienced officers of a violent temper. If Sir George Couper is right, and no doubt he is right, in explaining the increased admissions into jails on the fact that innocent persons were imprisoned by some magistrates, the natives would not be far from truth in alleging that justice, as it exists in the English law, is not dispensed in the courts, and that justice, as it exists in the minds and mouths of legislators, is not administered by those who are appointed for the purpose. The magistrate is a petty despot in his own district.

His order can be enforced before that of the Government need
 no order of the Government is carried into effect but through
 him. If a magistrate, possessed of so much power, be able
 to exercise authority unrestrained by law, and have no fear
 of ever being called to account by his superiors, the life and
 property of the subject can never be secure. The people will
 never be able to live in a state of peace and tranquillity, but
 will be in a constant dread of him. Can there be peace in a
 district where a magistrate can consign a respectable man
 to prison for not making him a *salam*, for not alighting from
 his carriage in token of respect to him, or for any other tri-
 fling offence? Can the inhabitants of such a district look upon their
 rights and privileges as secure? In these circumstances it is
 extremely necessary that the higher officials should always keep
 a strict eye on the proceedings of their subordinates. Lord
 Lytton's action in the Fuller case has been very opportune.
 If his minute had appeared a little earlier, a magistrate of the
 North-Western Provinces would not have dared to place a
 shoe on the head of a native *vakil*, simply because the latter
 entered his court with his shoes on. The higher officials should
 keep a strict watch on the enforcement of these
 rules. The editor concurs in the views expressed by the Govern-
 ment in reference to the classification of crimes committed by
 prisoners, with punishments for each class. Habitual crim-
 inals should never be allowed the benefit of the good conduct
 rules. Remissions of sentences should be granted under these
 rules to those prisoners only who are not habitually addicted to
 crime. The discretionary powers of superintendents of jails
 should not be curtailed, as they have to maintain peace and
 order among vast bodies of convicts hardened in crime; but
 at the same time they should be restrained within proper limits.
 The editor is opposed to the leniency, because in that case
 punishment loses all its deterrent character; nor would he
 recommend more severity, because punishment would then
 degenerate into oppression. In the end, the editor gives vent to
 expressions of great joy and obligation to Sir George Gough

for his just views embodied in the review. The attention directed by Lord Lytton and Sir George Couper to the wretched condition of natives, and to the proceedings of the Government officers, will greatly help the cause of an impartial administration of justice in the country, and deeply impress the minds of natives with a sense of the justice of the English law. Lord Lytton's minute has produced a salutary effect on the courts of justice throughout India. Similarly, Sir George Couper's views, embodied in the review of the report, will produce the desired effect on magistrates and superintendents of jails, especially those superintendents who regard the possession of a small quantity of smoking tobacco by a prisoner as a crime tantamount to culpable homicide, and accordingly punish the offender with no regard to human sympathy.

The *Qudh Akhbar* of the 27th October says that the Anglo-Indian papers have raised a terrible howl at the contemplated introduction of natives into the higher grades of the service, which is at present engaging the serious attention of the Government. The whole Anglo-Indian Press is ringing with the report of the unfitness and incapacity of natives for higher appointments, in the hope to gain the ear of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State, and thus to dissuade them from giving effect to the scheme for the admission of able natives into the Covenanted Civil Service. This general and unanimous declaration of the Anglo-Indian Press cannot fail to succeed, partially at least, in its evil purpose. The appointment of natives to the higher offices will not be carried out, as it otherwise might have been, to any appreciable extent, but will be merely nominal. But let the Anglo-Indian journalists say what they like, the question of the ability or otherwise of the natives has to be decided by the Government. The denunciations of the Anglo-Indians, betraying their inward enmity and prejudice, carry no weight there. They lay great stress on the fact that natives love the justice of European officers, but this in no way argues against the

ability of natives for the administration of state affairs and the dispensation of justice. The praise of European officers by natives does not necessarily imply the condemnation of natives. If a native through humility understates his own ability or that of his countrymen and commends the Europeans, the latter would not be right in taking him at his word. The Anglo-Indian journalists consider a knowledge of the English language and high birth as necessary conditions in native candidates for higher appointments. To this the editor would fully agree. As soon as the Government sets itself in this direction, educated natives belonging to great families will not be slow to offer their services. The editor trusts that Lord Lytton will not prove the slave of the Anglo-Indian Press, but will conscientiously and firmly carry out the wishes of the Parliament and the Secretary of State.

The same paper of the 25th October says that in the opinion of the *Pioneer*, since the issue of the resolution by the India Office recommending the appointment of able natives to higher offices in the Covenanted Civil Service, there has been much anxiety among the Europeans. The editor is at a loss to see any good reason for this anxiety, because the more the natives are exalted in rank and authority, the more grateful and thankful will they be to the English nation. An admixture of the native element with the European in the administration of the country will redound to the strength and stability of the Government. But if the cause of the anxiety be that the interests of the European officers will suffer, this is a great mistake. On the contrary, the natives have hitherto been unjustly excluded from offices of trust and responsibility, and the Prince of Wales, the Secretary of State, and the Viceroy, have now earnestly set themselves to work for the removal of this reproach from the Government. The preponderance of the influence of European officers over the natives will continue as at present, because there will never be more than five or ten native officials for one hundred European officers. When natives have shown themselves able to discharge the

duties of deputy collectors, subordinate judges, and so on, there is every reason to hope that they will prove themselves equal to the duties of collectors and judges. At the same time, if any native were to turn out unfit for his appointment, there would be nothing to prevent the Government from degrading him, though, the editor is prepared to say that such instances, if any, will be extremely rare. The *Pioneer* gratuitously condemns the natives for their incapacity to hold higher appointments in the public service. Has any native ever been entrusted with the charge of a district and turned out unfit for his duties? It is not right to abide by guesses and conjectures in matters which admit of direct experiments. First give the natives a fair trial, then you would be able to form a right opinion as to their merits or demerits.

The *Panjabī Akhbār* of the 21st October, referring to the report that the Government of India has resolved on enforcing a retrenchment of the public expenditure, especially in the Education Department of the North-Western Provinces, where all colleges are menaced with abolition, remarks that the abolition of the North-Western Provinces colleges will be an act of great injustice to the people, which was least expected from the English Government. The diffusion of knowledge is the first condition of the spread of civilization. The natives will never improve in art, commerce, trade, and agriculture, so long as education does not extend far and wide among them. The village, tahsili, and zila schools cannot pretend to give the higher education. The colleges, the highest seminaries of learning, being abolished, the education of the natives will necessarily remain imperfect. The British Government has scrupulously avoided appointing natives to high posts in the Civil Departments or in the commission of the staff corps. They are gratuitously denounced for their unfitness. There are natives who excel in ability many high European officers. Englishmen themselves admit this fact, but interested motives prevent them from openly declaring it. Among natives there are administrators like Sir Salar Jung,

Sir T. Madho Rao, Nawab Fuz Ali Khan, and others, whose ability has been acknowledged by candid Englishmen even in England. The editor can solemnly affirm that, had these men remained under the British administration, they would have been appointed tahsildars or extra assistant commissioners at the utmost. The natives justly indulged in high hopes of improvement from the Education Department, which is threatened now with abolition or reduction. We have hitherto been appealing to the kindness and liberality of the Government, says the editor, for the maintenance of the Education Department, but we can claim the same thing by right, inasmuch as the school cess is directly levied from the people for this express purpose. All that the Government has to do is to conduct the administration of the department and to supplement the cess proceeds by a small grant. Under these circumstances the Government is not justified in enforcing retrenchment in the Education Department, maintained at the direct cost of the people. It should effect savings in its own proper charges. The Government levies an educational cess at the rate of two rupees per cent. on the land-revenue from the zemindar. Besides the school cess regularly paid by the zemindars, other persons also contribute towards the support of particular schools and colleges by donations and subscriptions. The tuition fees paid by students in schools, and specially in colleges where they range between four annas and five rupees, together with the admission fees, make up a fair item of income to the department. Thus the people having to bear directly the lion's share of their education charges, the Government cannot, with any show of plausibility, apply the pruning knife to the department. But if the Government has come to a final determination on the subject, let it as a matter of justice refund the contributions made by the people, and remit the education cess to the zemindar. The editor would not be understood to imply that the natives themselves would be able to make suitable arrangements for their own education; but he is strongly opposed to any reduction in the education department whatever.

Now as regards the police department, any reductions here also would be tantamount to oppression of the people. A reversion to the old chaukidari system would be the best makeshift under the circumstances. The present police system has now had a long and fair trial to prove its superiority. It has, indeed, served two purposes. A good many appointments, as those of district superintendents and assistant superintendents of police, have been created for needy Europeans. The jails have been largely filled with prisoners, which may be explained either on the supposition of the fabrication of cases by the police, or on that of increase of crime under its auspices. If it be not feasible to change the present police system, no constables, head-constables, and inspectors, at all events, should come under reduction. These men are already a sufficient cause of oppression to the people, but they will be immensely so when thrown out of employ.

EDUCATIONAL.

A correspondent of the *Kavi Vachan Sudha*, dated 23rd October, remonstrates against the practice of the Education Department in the North-Western Provinces of allowing the teachers of the Government schools to continue in the same schools for a long term of years. During this long residence in one place, a teacher is enabled to make acquaintance with the tradesmen of the city, and is thus tempted to engage in private speculation. His attention being naturally divided, his proper duties are made to suffer. His pupils also slacken their zeal for study; and they hardly learn in five years what they otherwise would have learnt in one year. A great deal of public money is wasted on this class of teachers. The Government would do well to lay down a rule for the periodical transfer of teachers.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A correspondent of the *Urdu Akhbar*, dated 21st October, writing from Umraoti, says that a high officer addressed some unbecoming words to a vakil in his court. Officers should

always be on their guard, and consider themselves amenable to their superiors for their misconduct.

An Allahabad correspondent of the *Benares Akhbar*, dated 26th October, says that the people of the North-Western Provinces are labouring under a great disadvantage compared with those of the other provinces, as Bengal, Madras, Bombay, &c., in the matter of the court language. In the latter provinces the people are enabled to make comparatively rapid progress in their study of the English language, inasmuch as their second language being the vernacular of the country, they are enabled to devote their entire attention to one subject, i.e., English, while the inhabitants of the North-Western Provinces have to study both English and Persian as foreign languages. The Hindus are working for the introduction of Hindi into the courts, while the Musalmans are exerting themselves for the continuance of Urdu as the court language; the sad result of this mutual quarrel will be that English will supersede both. The writer then addresses himself to the Musalmans and impresses upon them the expediency of adopting the Hindi language. Among other advantages may be mentioned the facility with which every one can master the language in a remarkably short time. The Muhammadan zemindars also, being acquainted with Hindi, will not be left at the entire mercy of the Patwari. The Muhammadans have now no design of abandoning this country for another, therefore they should learn the language of the country.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 21st October, in its correspondence columns, publishes an article headed "The jealousy entertained by district officers towards settlement officers." The last examination of candidates of the Jhelum district for tahsildarships was held on Kohalla. The Settlement Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent, and one Sedar Munshim, the Naib Tahsildar of Jhelum, the Munsif of Chakwal, the Mial Khwan of Bindal Kaban, and two or three pri-

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.		
The late candidates presented themselves for examination.		
NAME.	DATA.	
Commissioner of Jhelum and the Assistant Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan. The Assistant Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	1st
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	15th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	16th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	17th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	18th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	19th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	20th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	21st
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	22nd
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	23rd
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	24th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	25th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	26th
Commissioner of Pind-bagat Khan.	October 1876.	27th